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For Immediate release
December 1, 2004

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**STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE**

**DPS ISSUES FINAL DRAFT OF
VERMONT'S ELECTRIC PLAN;
SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont Department of Public Service will be issuing for public review and comment this week the *Vermont Electric Plan – Final Draft*. The newly released edition incorporates public comments received in response to the comment draft issued August 6, 2004, and to the first draft *Comprehensive Energy and Electric Plan* issued December 8, 2003. Public hearings on the final draft will be held December 15 in Burlington and December 16 in Montpelier.

"We have received extensive comments in response to the first two drafts of the plan, both in writing and in stakeholder meetings. Many changes have been made in response to public input. It is time to complete this document and move on to our next planning task, particularly the Comprehensive Energy Plan," said Riley Allen, Director of Regulatory Planning. "The law calls for the plan to be adopted prior to the legislative session. Completing the last public input steps in mid-December will allow us to meet that deadline and have a plan in place to guide future energy discussions."

"The Electric Plan statute calls for annual updates and the Department fully intends to be doing so in cooperation with interested stakeholders. We see this as an ongoing discussion," added Allen.

The final draft will be available online beginning Friday, December 3, at www.state.vt.us/psd or by calling 802-828-2811. Public hearing details are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 15, 7-10 p.m., Contois Auditorium, Burlington
- Thursday, December 16, 7-10 p.m., Pavilion Building Auditorium, Montpelier

Public comment is also invited via mail to DPS, 112 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620, or by e-mail to vtdps@state.vt.us.

Persons who require sign language interpretation or other accommodation should contact DPS no later than December 8 to request accommodation.

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